First Nations Development Fund

Grant Program Annual Results 2010/2011

Building Strong Communities

Government of Alberta

Alberta

For additional copies of the *Annual Results*, please contact:

Alberta Intergovernmental, International and Aboriginal Relations

20th Floor, Commerce Place

10155-102 Street

Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4G8

Phone: 780-427-8407

Fax: 780-427-4019

website: www.aboriginal.alberta.ca

To call toll-free from anywhere in Alberta, dial 310-0000.

This publication is also available as a PDF document at www.aboriginal.alberta.ca

November 2011

ISBN 978-0-7785-9845-9 PRINT

ISBN 978-0-7785-9846-6 WEB

ISSN 1925-0401 PRINT

ISSN 1925-041X ONLINE

For more information visit www.aboriginal.alberta.ca

Table of Contents

Message from the Minister 2

Introduction 3

How It Works: FNDF Grant Agreement 5

Accountability 7

Supporting a Diversity of Community Projects 8

Grants by First Nation 10

Community Outreach 11

Success Story: Saddle Lake Youth Centre 12

Success Story: Tsuu T'ina Culture Museum 14

Success Story: Louis Bull Tribe Integrated Management Information System 16

Success Story: Tallcree Daycare Centre 18

Success Story: Siksika Storefront School and High-Speed Internet 20

Success Story: Fort McKay Business Incubator Park 22

How to Apply for FNDF Grants 24

Message from the Minister

The First Nations Development Fund (FNDF) Grant Program is an excellent source of support for First Nations' economic, social, and community development projects. First Nations communities across Alberta are accessing the FNDF and thanks to their vision, commitment and great ideas, the FNDF is making a positive difference in the lives of First Nations people in Alberta.

An important feature of the program is that First Nations set their own priorities and oversee the planning and implementation of the funded projects. This ensures that projects reflect the specific needs and interests of each community. While this year's report highlights the success of six First Nation communities, there are nearly 200 examples of First Nations communities who have benefited from FNDF support. Examples of FNDF-funded projects include housing; children, youth and elder programs; business development support; employment and training programs; and IT initiatives and equipment purchases.

The FNDF continues to have a significant role in supporting social, economic and community development in Alberta First Nations. I look forward to more successes and am committed to administering the FNDF in an open and transparent manner that recognizes the long-standing collaborative relationship between the Government of Alberta and First Nations.

Honourable Cal Dallas

Minister of Intergovernmental, International and Aboriginal Relations

Introduction

The First Nations Development Fund (FNDF) Grant Program is an Alberta government lottery grant program available exclusively to First Nations in Alberta. It is supported by a portion of revenues from government-owned slot machines located in First Nations casinos in Alberta. First Nations in Alberta may apply to the FNDF Grant Program for social, economic and community development projects.

The FNDF is part of the Alberta government's First Nations Gaming Policy. Both the Policy and the FNDF are the result of a strong collaborative process, having been negotiated and approved jointly by First Nations and the Government of Alberta.

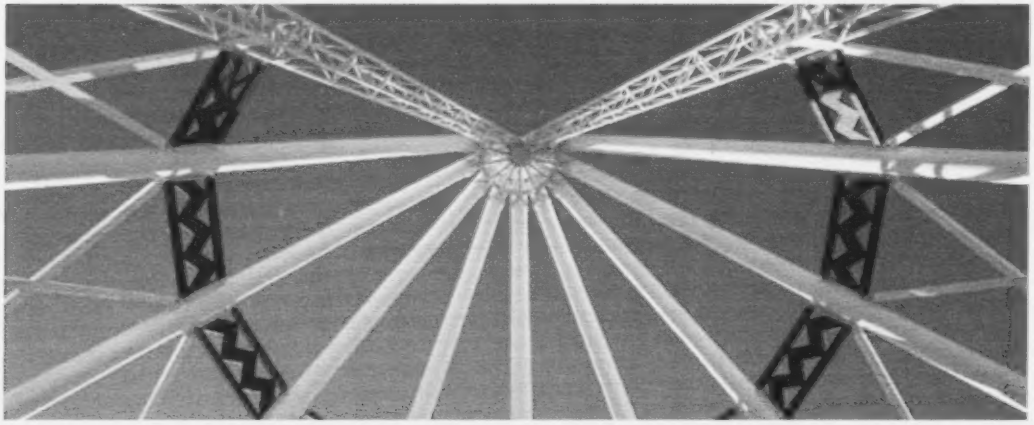
The Ministry of Intergovernmental, International and Aboriginal Relations has been administering the FNDF Grant Program since 2008. This reflects the Alberta government's commitment to building healthy and vibrant First Nation communities.

First Nations Casinos

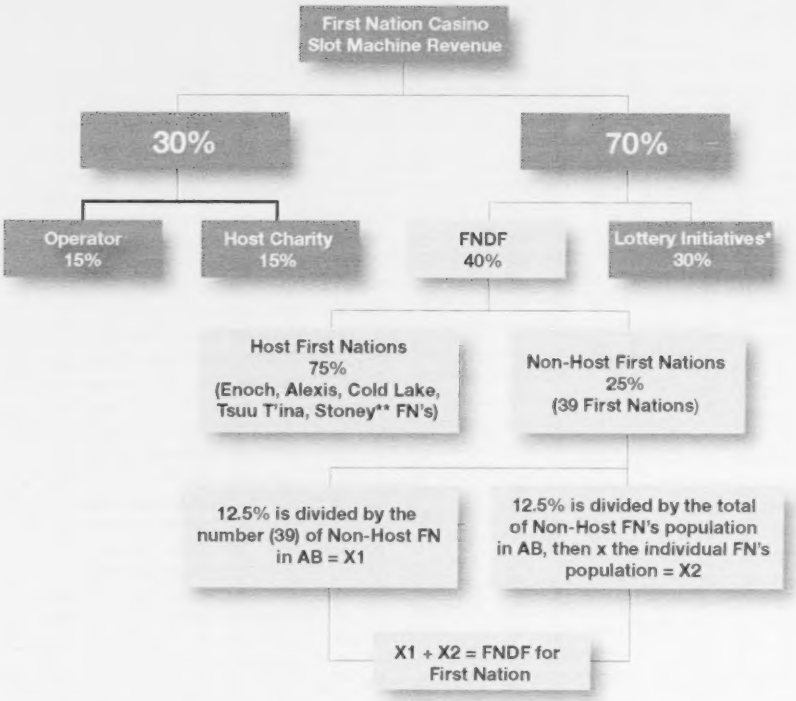
The five First Nation casinos in operation in Alberta are:

- River Cree Resort and Casino at Enoch Cree Nation
- Grey Eagle Casino at Tsuu T'ina Nation
- Eagle River Casino at Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation
- Casino Dene at Cold Lake First Nations
- Stoney Nakoda Resort at Stoney Nakoda Nation

> *FNDF is supported by a portion of revenues from government-owned slot machines located in First Nations casinos in Alberta.*



Allocation Formula for Grant Funding


First Nation Casino Slot Machine Revenue
30%
70%
Operator 15%
Host Charity 15%
FNDF 40%
Lottery Initiatives* 30%
Host First Nations 75% (Enoch, Alexis, Cold Lake, Tsuu T'ina, Stoney** FN's)
Non-Host First Nations 25% (39 First Nations)
12.5% is divided by the number (39) of Non-Host FN in AB = X1
12.5% is divided by the total of Non-Host FN's population in AB, then x the individual FN's population = X2
X1 + X2 = FNDF for First Nation

* *Alberta Lottery Fund supports a variety of Alberta programs and services in communities throughout Alberta. These include Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Initiatives, the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Alberta Historical Resources Foundation and the Community Initiatives Program.*

** *The three Stoney tribes – Chiniki, Bearspaw and Wesley – are considered one Host First Nation*

How It Works: FNDF Grant Agreement

How revenue is shared – funding formulas

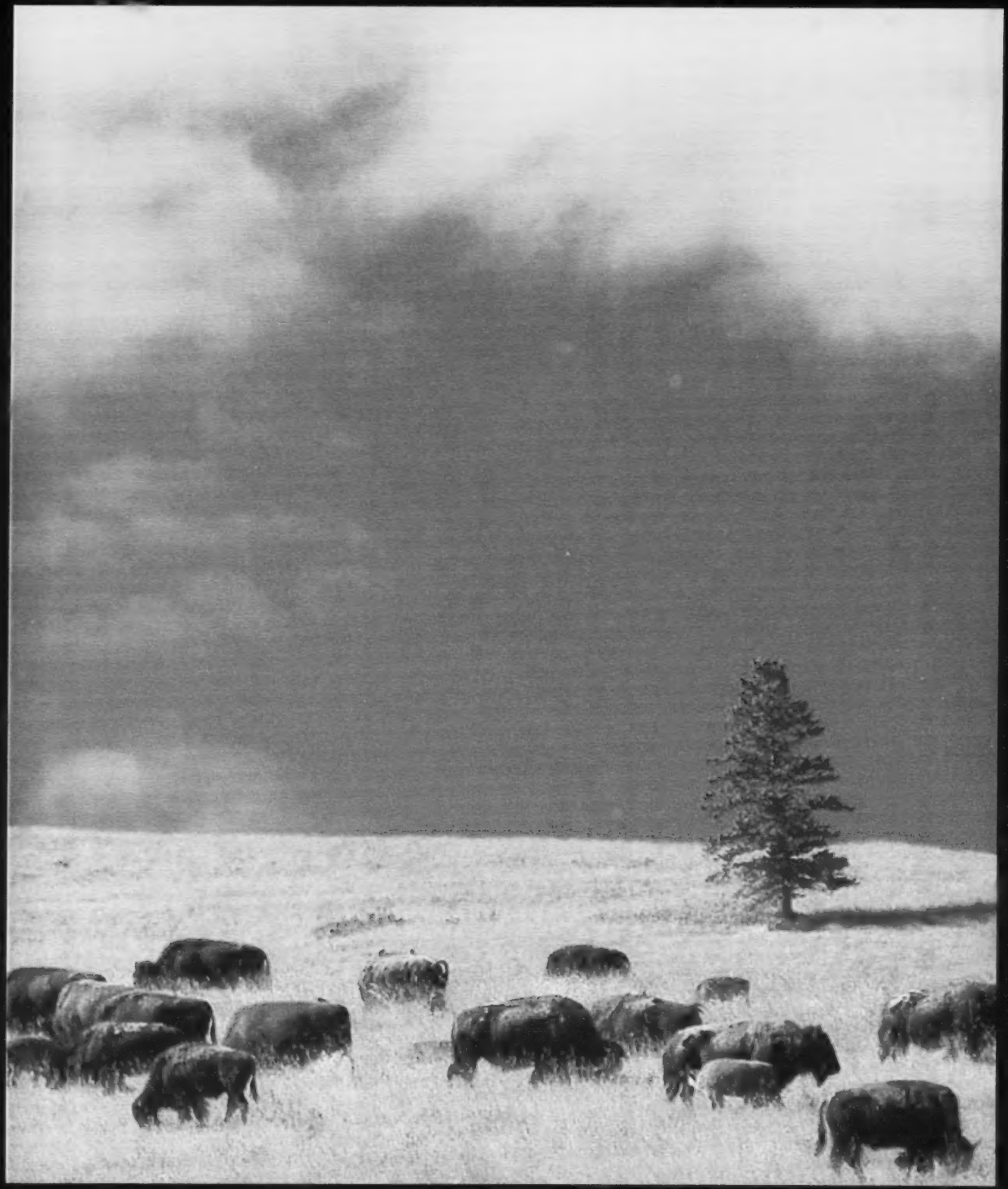
In order to receive funding from the FNDF Grant Program, First Nations sign an FNDF Grant Agreement. The FNDF Grant Agreement includes formulas for sharing the grant funding among all Alberta First Nations and covering administration costs from the FNDF Grant Program, as illustrated on page 4.

- The FNDF Grant Program receives 40 per cent of the net revenue from government-owned slot machines in First Nation casinos in Alberta.
- Of this 40 per cent, 75 per cent is available to the five host First Nations who have casinos, and 25 percent is shared among the other First Nations in Alberta.
- Of the 25 per cent going to First Nations that do not have casinos, half is divided equally among 39 First Nations; and the other half is divided according to First Nation population figures.

Quarterly payments

The Alberta government does not have FNDF funds at the start of the fiscal year. The funds become available as government receives the funds from the casinos. Once the slot machine revenues have been verified by the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission, funds are allocated to the FNDF Grant Program. Payments are made soon after the conclusion of each quarter (approximately July, October, January, April). Quarterly payments, rather than monthly ones, are consistent with the FNDF Grant Agreement and minimize administrative costs.

Projects can be approved for funding over multiple fiscal years, but the funding only flows as the money becomes available. For example, a $2 million roads upgrading project may be approved for $2 million, but it may take some time (multiple fiscal years) to fully pay out the funding, depending on the First Nation's allocation.



Accountability

Just like any other grant program, the FNDF includes accountability measures, which are included in the FNDF Grant Agreement:

- FNDF grants can only be used by First Nations for economic, social and community development projects.
- FNDF grants cannot be used for operating or financing costs of a casino or other gaming facility/ equipment, or for per capita distributions, or for security against loans or debt.
- Every grant application must include a Band Council Resolution.
- The use of FNDF grants must be reported annually by the First Nations.
- The Government of Alberta or the Auditor General of Alberta has the ability to conduct audits to ensure compliance with the Agreement and First Nations Gaming Policy.
- The Government of Alberta has the ability to suspend the Agreement and discontinue FNDF grants for non-compliance.
- While the Minister retains authority for final decision-making, there is a process for dispute resolution.

The Ministry of Intergovernmental, International and Aboriginal Relations, on behalf of the Government of Alberta, audits FNDF grants to support the accountability and transparency of the grants. Audits ensure that the funds are utilized only on the approved projects and are consistent with the FNDF Grant Agreement.

The FNDF auditors are also available to assist and advise First Nations on how to meet financial compliance requirements.

FNDF audits have found that:

- *Many First Nations have adopted the best practice of separating staff who manage FNDF funds and those who account for spending FNDF funds.*
- *Many First Nations excel in due diligence and project management when dealing with the complexities associated with undertaking capital projects.*
- *First Nations who needed to rectify errors found through the auditing process were eager to correct these and make improvements to their processes. This helps build capacity and supports best practices.*

Supporting a Diversity of Community Projects

Since it began, FNDF has paid out over $379 million in grants to First Nations in Alberta.

In 2010/2011, the FNDF Grant Program paid over $102 million to First Nations to support 197 community-based and community-designed projects including:

- Housing
- Children, youth and elder programs
- Cultural retention initiatives
- Supports for new business
- Employment and training programs
- Environmental initiatives
- IT initiatives and equipment purchases
- Heavy equipment purchases to improve on-reserve infrastructure

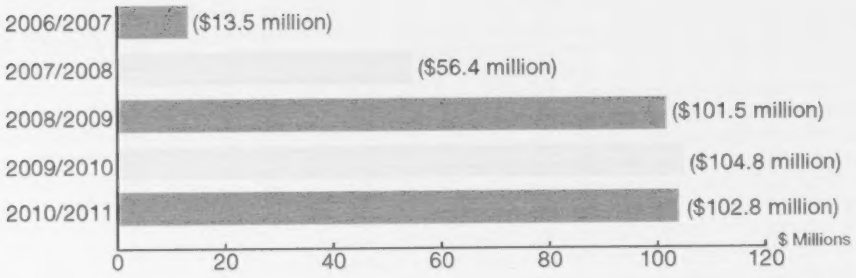
Low administration costs

Intergovernmental, International and Aboriginal Relations incurs costs in the administration of the FNDF Grant Program. In 2010/2011, approximately $957,000 in administrative expenses were charged to the FNDF Grant Program, representing less than one per cent (0.92 per cent) of the total FNDF Grant Program funds. This includes salaries, benefits, travel, annual workshop and any special supplies for the FNDF Grant Program staff members. The Government of Alberta absorbs other costs in the administration of the FNDF Grant Program, including daily office supplies, office space, utilities, computers, human resource and finance/ accounting services, salaries of senior management and ministerial oversight.

Since its inception, the FNDF Grant Program has approved over 832 projects. For a complete listing of FNDF grants paid

- *Visit www.albertalotteryfund.ca*
- *Click on "Who Benefits – searchable database"*
- *Under "Agency" select "First Nations Development Fund"*

FNDF Fiscal Year Grant Funding



FNDF Grant Program Funding by Treaty Area 2010/2011

Of the five First Nation casinos, three are operated by First Nations in Treaty 6, and two are operated by First Nations in Treaty 7. As 75% of the FNDF Grant Program funds are allocated back to the First Nations with casinos, more funding flows to Treaty 6 and Treaty 7 First Nations.

Treaty 6 – Signed in 1876 – covers central Alberta and Saskatchewan and includes 17 Alberta First Nations

Treaty 7 – Signed in 1877 – covers southern Alberta and includes 7 Alberta First Nations

Treaty 8 – Signed in 1899 – covers portions of northern Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Northwest Territories and includes 24 Alberta First Nations

Grants By First Nation

First Nation	Funding Paid* 2010/2011	First Nation	Funding Paid* 2010/2011
Alexander First Nation	$587,727.20	Loon River First Nation	396,145.14
Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation	4,841,782.48	Louis Bull Tribe	601,876.78
Athabasca Chipweyan First Nation	453,025.01	Mikisew Cree First Nation	690,451.45
Beaver First Nation	446,657.38	Montana Cree Nation	455,005.38
Beaver Lake Cree Nation	458,826.51	O'Chiese First Nation	475,098.58
Bigstone Cree Nation	1,359,573.87	Paul First Nation	588,010.34
Blood Tribe	1,839,377.73	Piikani Nation	826,708.77
Chipweyan Prairie First Nation	426,848.58	Saddle Lake First Nation	1,252,887.62
Cold Lake First Nations	4,639,681.08	Samson Cree Nation	1,335,660.89
Dene Tha' First Nation	706,581.34	Sawridge First Nation	381,146.35
Driftpile First Nation	662,576.44	Siksika Nation	1,246,095.98
Duncan's First Nation	358,931.92	Smith's Landing First Nation	371,099.76
Enoch Cree Nation #440	36,712,184.33	Stoney Nakoda Nation	3,433,116.23
Ermineskin Tribe	876,798.23	Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation	712,239.71
Fort McKay First Nation	417,520.49	Sucker Creek First Nation	668,944.08
Fort McMurray #468 First Nation	413,124.33	Sunchild First Nation	499,717.40
Frog Lake First Nation	700,072.77	Swan River First Nation	485,851.01
Heart Lake First Nation	369,260.32	Tall Cree First Nation	480,333.91
Horse Lake First Nation	458,967.38	Tsuu T'ina Nation	27,488,527.53
Kapawe'no First Nation	371,525.05	Whitefish (Goodfish) First Nation	688,895.10
Kehewin Cree Nation	587,018.84	Whitefish Lake First Nation	630,316.67
Little Red River Cree Nation	959,571.49	Woodland Cree First Nation	464,627.95
		Total	$ 102,820,389.40

**All FNDF grant expenditures are reported on the accrual basis of accounting.*

Community Outreach

The Ministry hosted its annual FNDF community workshop in October 2010

Aboriginal Relations staff and First Nations participants at the FNDF workshop held in October 2010 in Red Deer

The FNDF community workshop was held in Red Deer in October 2010 and attracted approximately 50 participants. It included sessions on proposal writing and budgeting, financial management, reporting and auditing. The workshop received excellent reviews and feedback was used to plan the next workshop.

FNDF staff meet regularly with First Nations to provide information, advice and assistance in planning for the use of the FNDF Grant Program in a way that works best for First Nations communities. Specific assistance and advice can relate to any aspect of the Grant Program, including:

- Using FNDF within the terms of the Grant Agreement.
- Identifying community priorities
- Completing funding applications
- Reporting, auditing and other requirements of the First Nations.
- Community planning/development

Success Story

Saddle Lake Youth Centre

The Saddle Lake Youth Centre has been providing a safe and supportive environment to children and youth for over 20 years. In 2010/2011, FNDF Grant Program funding provided resources for the operation and maintenance of the Centre. Since opening its doors, the Youth Centre has received an annual FNDFGP allocation for office/recreation equipment and administrative support staff.

Saddle Lake Cree Nation is located approximately 175 kilometres northeast of Edmonton. The First Nation's youth aged six to twenty six have been accessing a range of programs at the Centre, including the Community Cadet Corps; after school drop-in; Homework Club; Computer Club; Nutrition; Recreation; Drum Circle; and the Torch and Keystone Group, the First Nation's youth leadership program.

"With this Youth Centre, our young people have a place to gather together to learn and take part in positive activities. They are getting the support they need to do well in life. We are helping to build a brighter future for them and for our community." ***- Chief Eddy Makokis***

The Youth Centre also houses the Oskiya School, an alternative high school program with an enrolment of approximately 20 students in the 2010/2011 school year.

The Youth Centre also supports delivery of the Restorative Justice Program. In partnership with the RCMP, an onsite youth worker delivers the program which is aimed at encouraging young offenders to take responsibility for their actions and to repair possible harm they've done to themselves, their families and their community.

Success Story

Archival Library at Tsuu T'ina Culture Museum

Tsuu T'ina First Nation, a member of Treaty 7, is located about 13 kilometres southwest of Calgary.

The story of Tsuu T'ina's 125 year history is told through the Culture Museum's artifacts and cultural programming. With a staff of two, the museum displays a model tipi and two headdresses from 1938, along with 400 other artifacts. Locally crafted moccasins and intricate beadwork are available for purchase from the Arts and Craft store, along with Pendleton blankets and accessories.

The museum is housed in the Sarcee Seven Chiefs Sportsplex in Tsuu T'ina. Since opening in 1983, it has been home to artifacts from museums across Canada. Several of the items were also donated by community members whose families lived in and worked with Tsuu T'ina Nation.

In 2010/2011, the First Nation Development Fund Grant Program provided $224,000 to fund overall operations as well as the expansion of the Cultural Museum's Archival Library. In July 2010, historian Dr. Elizabeth Churchill was hired to work with summer students to collect close to 300 additional files telling the story of the Day School experience of community members. This was a substantial addition to the library's existing archive of 900 documented files.

Today, about 30 students from the community regularly access the programs of the Culture Museum. Off-reserve schools and youth programs also take annual field trips to the Museum to learn about the history and culture of the Tsuu T'ina Nation people and community.

Jeanette Starlight, Executive Director of the Tsuu T'ina Cultural Museum, displaying one of the artifacts.

"The Culture Museum helps people learn about the history of Calgary's first inhabitants. By expanding our archive collection, we can keep the history of the Tsuu T'ina people alive. This helps preserve our culture and also enables us to tell our story to others. It's also important for our children to learn about our history so they can pass it on to their children." ***- Chief Sandford Big Plume***

Success Story

Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) at Louis Bull Tribe

http://louisbulltribe.ca/

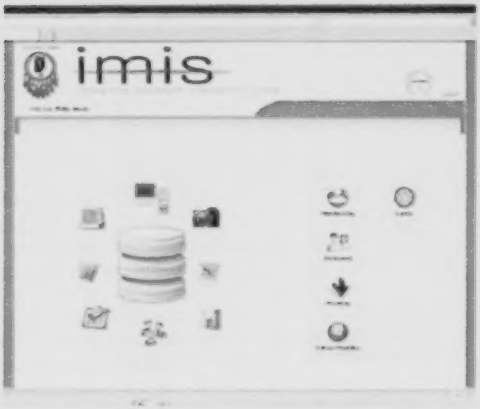
Louis Bull Tribe's sophisticated Integrated Data Management System is helping this First Nation manage and integrate the day-to-day operations and delivery of services to its members, partners and funders. The project involves three phases: Website, Intranet Portal and the Integration Management Information System.

The **Louis Bull Website** provides its members, partners and stakeholders with information and updates on various departments of the band's administration, including housing, finance, education, employment and membership. The website also allows members to login to webmail, check on local weather information and access an online space where customers can conduct business with the First Nation.

> *The **Intranet Portal** is a tool for First Nation employees to track events and schedules of band officers, link to internal applications, link to the website; and Chief and Council information.*

The **Integrated Management and Information System** (IMIS) helps to manage information of various departments and the day-to-day activities of Louis Bull Tribal operations. These include finance, economic development, human resource development, education, membership, lands, projects, housing, infrastructure and public works.

Together, the website, intranet portal and IMIS will provide meaningful and timely information to members of the First Nation, partners, government and stakeholders. These tools will allow the Council and staff to more effectively plan, identify resource allocation issues, provide important performance information and determine priority areas for the community aimed at improving the quality of life for community members.



"As Chief and Council, we want people to have the information they need to make decisions and get important services. We want people to succeed. Having all of this on our own website is an important step for us - it's great to have our own cyber space."
- Chief Rusty Threefingers

Success Story

Tallcree First Nation– South Tallcree Daycare

FNDF grant funding enabled the First Nation to plan, construct and equip the daycare centre in consultation with a certified engineering technologist, a child care professional, and an early childhood specialist. The project was also an opportunity for local tradespeople to bid on and participate in the development of the facility.

Tallcree First Nation is part of Treaty 8 and is located 46 kilometres southeast of Fort Vermilion.

With help from an FNDF grant and thanks to a committed community, the First Nation will have a new, fully-equipped daycare centre.

The new daycare facility will not only provide parents with a much-needed resource, it will help build community capacity and support growth in social and economic development. The centre will also create employment opportunities for community members.

Scheduled to open in winter 2011-2012, the South Tallcree Daycare will offer a full range of child care services and programs, including full-time childcare and before-and-after-school care.

"This new daycare centre will be great for our community. It will make a big difference to our quality of life and economic development. Parents can go to work and school, knowing their children are being well taken care of."

- Chief Rupert Meneen

Success Story

Siksika Storefront School and SiksikaTel

Siksika Nation is located in south central Alberta, approximately 110 kilometres east of Calgary.

Siksika Storefront School

Education is a priority in all First Nations, and meeting the needs of at-risk students can bring unique challenges. With support from the FNDF program, the First Nation was able to construct a new Storefront School to meet the educational needs of students who, for a variety of reasons, are not attending or doing well in conventional schooling.

The Chief and Council identified the Storefront School as a community priority and accessed FNDF resources to support the construction of a school that will deliver education to approximately 27 students.

> *The goal of the school is to create a program where students can "once again become excited about learning and reconnect with their families, culture and their own identity. Through intensive one-on-one and small group intervention and community support we will rekindle the spirit of our students and once again encourage them to set and strive for untold dreams."*

Siksika Storefront School in its final stages of construction.

The new school includes a library, gymnasium, computer lab, kitchen and meeting room.

In the 2010/11 school year, the staff of three – the principal and two teachers –opened the doors to the new building, providing alternative schooling and supervised home schooling for junior high students. Over the long term, the school plans to establish a variety of programs to meet the needs of at-risk school age children. The next phase of programming will see current students progress to senior high school.

SiksikaTel

In October 2010, SiksikaTel started out as a pilot project that saw the development of two towers that would serve 11 customers providing high speed internet service. After the success of the pilot program, SiksikaTel went operational in March 2011 and put up seven more towers.

As of June 2011, SiksikaTel provides high speed internet and telephone service to 172 subscribers with the potential of providing services to 1200 households in the community.

Communication Technician Apprentices David Pantherbone and Zach Springchief prepare for an installation of SiksikaTel's high speed internet service.

Partners included Wiband Communications who managed the tower construction and Community Networks, which provided the network infrastructure and the project management software to manage monthly subscriptions. A staff of three — a Project Manager and two Communication Technician Apprentices — oversee the operations of SiksikaTel.

Harlon McMaster, Project Manager beside the SiksikaTel tower.

> *"SiksikaTel has been an excellent economic development initiative for our community. It provides accessible, affordable and fast high speed internet and telephone service to households. It's also creating jobs and training opportunities for our young people. This is all pretty exciting."* **- Chief Fred Rabbit Carrier**

Success Story

Fort McKay Business Incubator Park

With a membership of over 660, Fort McKay First Nation is approximately 50 kilometres northwest of Fort McMurray. The First Nation has a thriving business community it wants to keep growing with funding support from the FNDF.

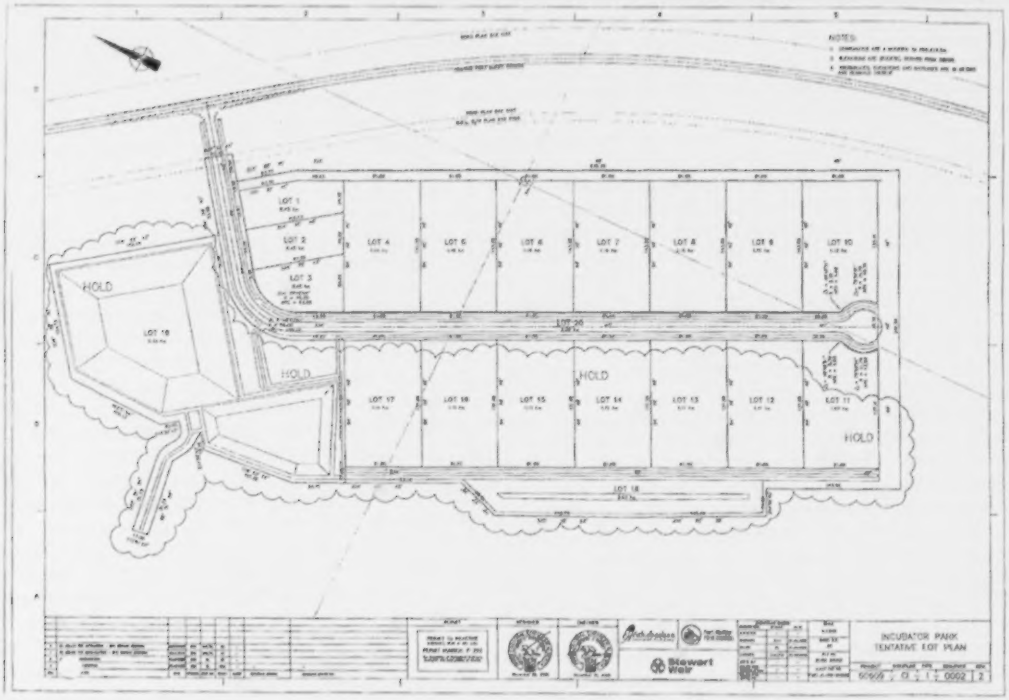
The Fort McKay Business Incubator Park offers affordable, flexible business sites, services and other basic supports for the First Nation's aspiring business owners. Many of them are young entrepreneurs who will have the benefit of interacting with and learning from experienced business owners. Spaces in the industrial park can be adapted to suit the type of business – it can be an office or another type of building.

Ideally located, the park is within a 20-minute drive of five oil sands developers operating in the region, giving tenants ready access to their customers – both current and future.

The business park is designed to provide a common area for sharing resources and supports. It is strategically located within a short drive of several oil sands developers. Spaces can be adapted to suit the needs of the business owner.

"Fort McKay has a long history of successful business development. The Business Incubator Park is the next big step in building the next generation of business owners. It's very exciting for our First Nation to see the new business ideas coming from our young people. They see others who have done really well and they believe they can be successful too." ***- Chief Jim Boucher***

Thanks to support from the FNDF, aspiring entrepreneurs can learn business skills and develop their ideas from concept to reality – with important supports and encouragement from successful business owners



How to Apply for FNDF Grants

Recognized Alberta First Nation Band Councils are eligible to apply to the FNDF Grant Program. The criteria for taking part in the fund were determined in consultation with First Nations in the province.

Grant applications must include:

1. Completed and signed application
2. Detailed project description
3. Detailed project funding/budget information
4. Band Council Resolution

Application Deadline

Applications are accepted throughout the year.

To get a copy of the application and FNDF Grant Program Agreement, or for further assistance, contact:

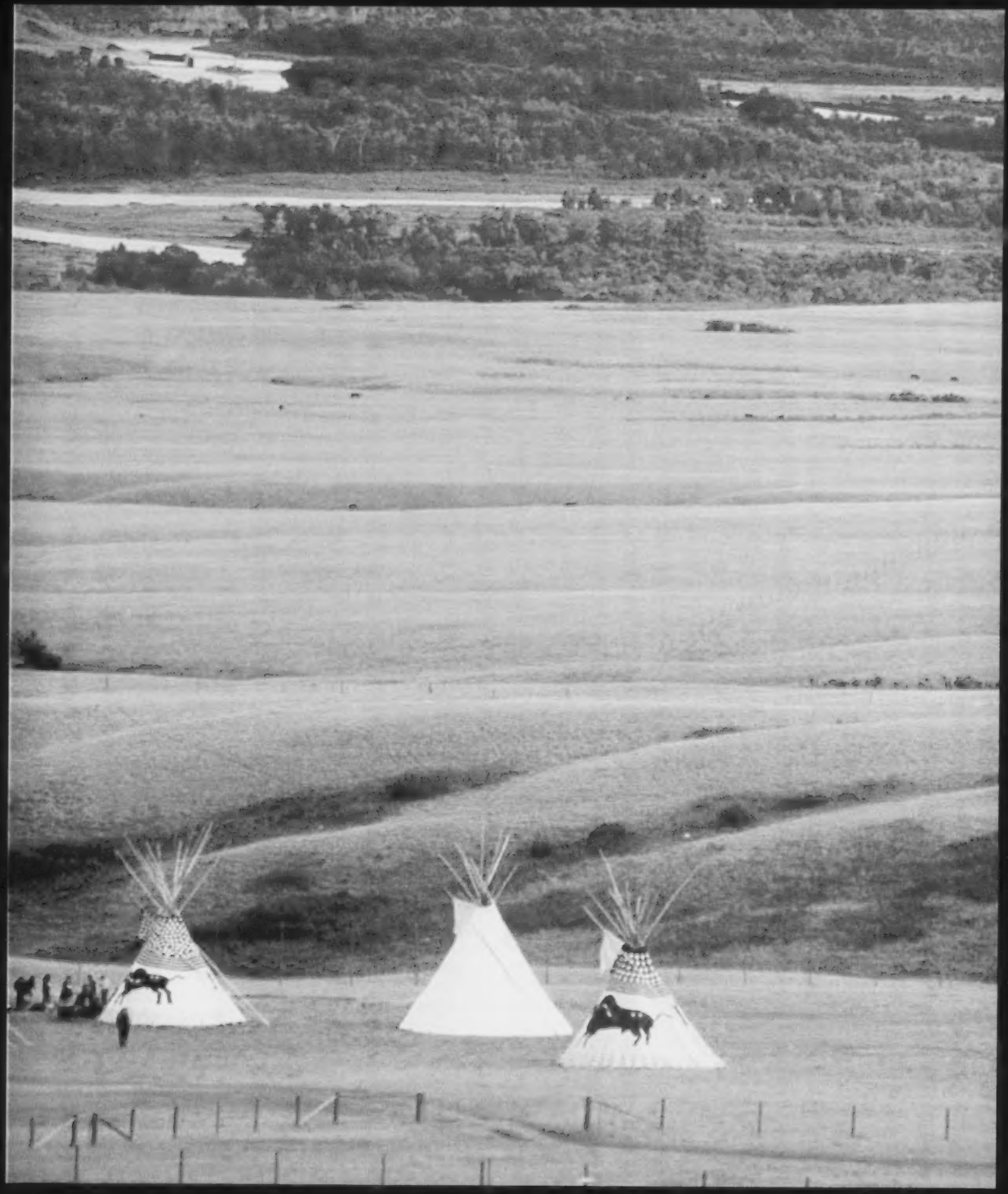
Alberta Intergovernmental, International and Aboriginal Relations

20th Floor Commerce Place
10155 – 102 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4G8
Phone: 780-427-8407
Fax: 780-427-4019

To call toll-free from anywhere in Alberta, dial 310-0000.

The FNDF Grant Program application form is also available online:

- Visit www.aboriginal.alberta.ca
- Click on First Nations Relations
- Click on First Nations Development Fund Grant Program.



Government of Alberta

Alberta